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13 April 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, SR/3
Deputy Chief, SR/COP/CL

Attached is the preliminary plan for an AECASSOWARY/1 REDSKIN operation soon to be activated. Four persons in the Soviet Ukraine, previously selected, will be contacted, and a "remote control" attempt to recruit one of them will be made. Comments and suggestions from the addressees are requested.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCESMETHODSEXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

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Background of the Traveler

Victor ROHOWSKY was born on 20 July 1915 in the village of Smykintsi, Tarnopol Oblast, Western Ukraine. From 1926 to 1934 he went to school in Tarnopol, commuting every day from his village. When the Ukrainian gymnasium he attended was closed by the Poles in 1930, he transferred to the Polish gymnasium in Tarnopol. He first established contact with the OUN in 1928 or 1929 through Vasyl OKHRYMOVYCH, who attended the same school. Volodymyr, his brother, was also a member of the OUN, although another brother, Ilko, had contacts with the Communists. In fact, Ilko had Communist literature in their home. (This was during a period when some Ukrainian nationalists sought and received aid against the Polish Government from the USSR. There was a thorough falling out by 1939.) He warned Victor never to read or handle this literature, which Victor did anyway but without understanding much of it. After being denounced by a Polish schoolmate, Victor was arrested by the Polish police in 1932 for possession of illegal literature. He was held for only eight hours before being released. Following his graduation from school in May 1934, he remained at home and worked as a salesclerk in the village co-operative store.

In June 1935, Victor was arrested by the Polish police in connection with the murder of Jan GAVLICH, a Polish informer, but he was acquitted after three weeks. He then operated the family farm because his brother Volodymyr was spending a year and a half in a concentration camp. When Volodymyr was released, the two established a leather store located in the market place in Tarnopol.

He was again arrested by the Poles in August 1937 for OUN activities, specifically, a case involving Vasyl OKHRYMOVYCH and his accomplices. In March 1938, he was sentenced to two years in prison. Volodymyr continued running the store, and when Victor was released in 1939, he returned to Tarnopol and his business. As the Soviets approached in late September, the brothers brought the goods from the store to their village and sold them. In October Victor voted in the Soviet elections, signing his name to a voting list. Although it is doubtful that such records survived the war, this signature possibly provides the Soviets with an opportunity to claim that he

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was a Soviet citizen. Later he learned from a friend that he was considered a dangerous nationalist by the Polish police and was advised to leave the area. Victor, along with another friend, went to Lvov and then decided to go to German-occupied Poland. They were apprehended by a Soviet border patrol and held for several hours. The Soviets accepted a false story that they were returning home from Poland to the Ukraine, but the Soviets insisted that they cross the border at specified crossing points and sent them into German-held Poland for that purpose. Victor and his friend proceeded, unmolested by German patrols, to Cracow. Here Victor met OKHYMOVICH, who listed him as an OUN member, and from December 1939, to May 1940, he lived in an OUN camp at Zakopane.

In May 1940, Victor was released from the camp and sent to Lublin. He worked as a salesman for a candy factory until Volodymyr came to Lublin in December. They established a candy shop of their own, employing from six to twelve people depending on business. Meanwhile he was accepted as an interpreter for the German Army. Victor was assigned to the Luftnachrichten Regiment in Warsaw in June 1940, as an interpreter for the regimental staff. On 20 June his unit marched to Brest, Minsk, Smolensk, Briansk, Kalinin, Orel, Gomel, and Chernigov. His job consisted of establishing temporary local administration in his area and in screening and releasing POW's. In December, as the political situation deteriorated and the plans toward the Ukraine became obvious to everyone, Victor applied for release, returned to Lublin, and with his brother reopened his business.

By spring 1942 Victor had four stores in three cities with an apartment in each city: two stores in Tarnopol, one in Lvov, and one in Lublin. These were candy shops maintained mainly for the purpose of obtaining sugar from the German authorities to sell on the black market. In August Volodymyr was arrested by the Germans in Lublin for black marketeering, but Victor managed his release through a German friend. He gave up the business in Lublin and eventually turned to the yeast distributing business when the Germans cut the sugar delivery. He enrolled in the Medical School of Lvov University in September and attended for the next four semesters, doing business at the same time. Because of many denunciations against him for black marketeering, he was forced to quit the yeast business in January 1943. Afterwards he concentrated on his business in Tarnopol, where he also opened a wholesale salt business and sold hardware.

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In December 1943, Victor met his first wife, Margareta Chala, when she came to Ternopol with a theater from the Eastern Ukraine, and in February 1944, they were married. To avoid the approaching Soviet Army, they moved to Sambir on 6 March. At this time Victor was still a medical student and traveled from time to time to Lvov. Margareta's parents were also in Sambir, and through her father, who was in contact with the Cossack detachments within the German Army, Victor was called upon to act as an interpreter for the Cossack staff. The four of them moved to Krynytsia in May and to Brno, Czechoslovakia, in September. In November, after the German authorities asked them to move to Germany, they went to Berlin. Formally, Victor held two jobs in Berlin, but he did not do much because he had enough money with him.

The family, including a month-old daughter, left Berlin in February 1945, with a transport of Cossacks going to Italy. The daughter died near Innsbruck, Austria, and Victor and his wife left the transport at Landeck, Austria, where he got a job with the Pfersche Construction Company. After the war they were located in various DP camps until November 1947, when they left for New York.

Since 1947 he has lived and been employed at numerous places in New Jersey. In 1956 he divorced Margareta and in 1958 married his present wife, Maria Vyslocka, who is American born. Several years ago he made contact with a Soviet official, Muraviev, in order to start a package sending business to the Soviet Union, but his application to Intourist was rejected. An application he made to the FBI for employment as an interpreter in 1959 or 1960 was also rejected because he failed the examination in translation. He now lives in Irvington, New Jersey, and is employed at the Hyatt Company, Bearings Division, Newark, New Jersey. His mother, who arrived from the Soviet Union about a year ago, and one brother also live in Irvington. A sister and brother are in Canada, and another brother is in Poland. He has a son, Dmytro, eleven years old, by his first marriage.

Victor is assessed by ACCESORIES 2 and 15 as a romantic and an activist. He is never at a loss in any situation, whatever the disruptions in life. As to his motivation in connection with the operation, they believe that he feels guilty for having abandoned the Ukrainian nationalist cause during its most trying period, after at one time committing himself to it. He now wishes to make up for this lapse by performing a service on behalf of that cause. He himself

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explained that he believes the present period of co-existence between the United States and the USSR is nearing an end, and he wants to become active at a relatively early stage.

In an assessment by [] it was pointed out that Victor has a vivid imagination, which must be taken into account in his training and briefing. He must keep this under control in his reporting of what he observes or hears. He might exhibit a tendency to be too cautious by overestimating the dangers. On the other hand, he is capable of heroics during a short period of great danger. He would find it difficult or impossible to deceive. Questions of loyalty for him are clear and simple. He is intense and even dedicated, and he would be very effective in kindling or rekindling enthusiasm for a cause in another person. Considerable training, with due regard for his weaknesses, is desirable in Victor's case.

Security and Cover

The traveler will visit the Ukraine as a simple tourist. He will travel alone--not with a group and, if possible, on the low-cost pension plan. Unless he is forced to take the deluxe plan, he should not be burdened with an Intourist guide. In any event, Intourist guides do not usually work evenings, when the traveler will make all but one of his contacts. He will be obliged to get away from his guide on one occasion during the day in Lvov.

The traveler's itinerary and conduct during most of his trip will make it apparent that the purpose of his visit is innocent. He will visit his brother in Poland, attend events and visit sites concerned with the Shevchenko Centennial in Kaniv, Kiev, and Lvov, visit his father's grave in Ternopol, visit a city where he formerly lived (Lvov), and generally observe again his former homeland. In short, the visit will be a sentimental one.

The traveler will not advertise his travel plans prior to leaving the United States. He has told his wife that he intends to visit his brother in Poland and might go on into the Ukraine. She

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suggested that he not tell anyone about his plans, lest he be accused of Communist sympathies. (This rather naive viewpoint is common enough within the Ukrainian emigration. Many Ukrainian tourists tell no one about their visits to the USSR until they have returned, fearing both criticism and requests for favors from friends.)

The traveler will go on leave from his factory job. He is certain that this absence will not cause him difficulty, as production is down and labor is in surplus.

The traveler will make his travel arrangements through Maupin Tours. His passport has been obtained, indicating that he is of Polish birth.

The traveler will carry a camera which he will use for innocent purposes only. He will be instructed not to photograph any restricted areas or installations.

The traveler will be dressed in American clothing of such a type that he will not be immediately identifiable as an American by the look of his clothing alone. Certain common American clothing is of such a style, pattern, and color as to be little distinguishable from the current Soviet product. There will not be an attempt, however, to disguise the traveler as a Soviet citizen.

While the traveler's background prior to his departure from the Ukraine was somewhat out of the ordinary, his activity during World War II was of an economic rather than a political nature. His imprisonment as a Ukrainian nationalist took place more than twenty years ago under the Polish administration. Those Polish records which might have existed on him prior to the Soviet occupation of Galicia in 1939 were probably destroyed or lost along with early Soviet records either during the German invasion or the German retreat in 1944. In any case, the traveler has nothing in his background which could be considered a "war crime." His service with the German Army was short and relatively uncompromising, and he was not a participant in armed Ukrainian nationalist activity during or after World War II. Inasmuch as the traveler will carry a United States passport and will be called upon to commit only one overt act which might conceivably cause him trouble (mailing the trigger letter), it is felt that the overall danger factor is not great.

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Finance

The traveler has been promised that all of his travel and operational expenses will be paid. He will be reimbursed at his regular rate of pay for a three-week absence from his job. It has been indicated to the traveler that if he performs satisfactorily, he will be in line for a bonus. No specific sum has been mentioned. The traveler has repeatedly emphasized that he is not undertaking the mission for monetary reward.

The traveler will be provided with his ticket fare and expense money in cash by ARCASSOWARY/15. He has no regular bank account. (It is not unusual for emigres to save cash money at home for a trip or large purchase, then pay in cash.) The traveler does not share with his wife (his second) the details of his finances, and the latter did not voice any objections to the traveler about the cost of the trip.

The traveler will be required to provide an exact and detailed accounting of his expenses upon return.

The operational cost estimate is as follows:

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Transportation and Travel Expenses | \$1300.00 |
| Leave Without Pay (18 days @ \$28 per diem) | 504.00 |
| Clothing and Supplies (as necessary) | 100.00 |
| Money for Appropriate Operational Occasions. . . . | 200.00 |
| Souvenirs and Gifts. | 50.00 |
| Briefing, Debriefing, and Training in U. S. . . . | <u>200.00</u> |
| Total | \$2354.00 |

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Tasks in Order of Priority

A. The traveler will contact and assess the present circumstances of Vira SVENTSITSKA, a recontact and recruitment candidate. If SVENTSITSKA seems in order, the traveler will give her as a gift a fountain pen in which will be concealed a letter from AEGASSOWARY/2 with a recruitment proposition (See Attachment A). The letter will have been greatly reduced in size by a photographic process. The traveler will trigger the concealment device by means of a letter to SVENTSITSKA which he will have sewn into his wallet (See Attachment B). He will post the letter immediately prior to his departure. (For complete details, see Itinerary.)

B. The traveler will contact and assess for subsequent contact and development Volodymyr HINDA, an aircraft plant employee in Lvov.

C. The traveler will recontact Darya and Eugenia VONS of Lvov, friends from his early life before and during World War II. These contacts will be assessed for possible subsequent recontact and operational follow-up.

D. The traveler will make visual and auditory observations in line with his requirements briefing.

Persons for Contact in Order of Interest

A. Vira SVENTSITSKA was born ca. 1913. Her father, Illarion SVENTSITSKY, who died several years ago, was a university professor and Ukrainian art expert in Lvov. SVENTSITSKA joined the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) while still in her teens. She was imprisoned by the Poles for nationalist activity before World War II. She was arrested by the Soviets during the first occupation of the Western Ukraine in 1939 and spent some time in prison thereafter. During the German occupation she was in contact with the Ukrainian underground. After World War II she was arrested by the Soviets and deported for five years.

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SVENTSITSKA belongs to old-stock Galician intelligentsia (pre-Soviet). She is an authority on Ukrainian art of the fourteenth to eighteenth centuries and deeply attached to the Ukrainian culture. She is currently employed at the Lvov State Museum of Ukrainian Art, Drahomanova 42. SVENTSITSKA is single. She and her sister, a German language teacher, are believed to occupy an apartment belonging to the Museum in its immediate vicinity. SVENTSITSKA's current status at the Art Museum is that of "Scientific co-worker in the department of ancient art." She signed an article which appeared in Radynska Kultura on 20 January 1960.

AMCASSOWARY/2 has known SVENTSITSKA since the early thirties. He believes that despite the hardships which she has endured, she had not altered her views regarding the Ukrainian nationalist cause and that she will respond to his plea. Regardless of her response he does not believe she will report the recruitment attempt to the authorities if she believes it to be genuine.

B. Volodymyr HINDA is a young Ukrainian (ca. 30) who is reported to work in a "secret airplane factory" in Lvov. The source of this report is an eighty-year old woman who recently immigrated to the United States to join her daughters in Philadelphia. She was debriefed for PI and operational leads by AMCASSOWARY/4. In the house where Source lived in Lvov, there also lived a young man who worked in a "secret factory" manufacturing airplane parts. After it had become known that Source was emigrating, this young man was visited by Volodymyr HINDA, who lived a few houses away. A vodka party developed. During the party HINDA approached Source, told her that he had heard she was going to America, and said, "Tell them there that I am the same as I was before." HINDA lives at Rayduzhna 5 in an area called Kozelnikiy, new Lvov.

C. Darya VONS is a pharmacist in Lvov, DOB ca. 1913. She is the daughter of a Ukrainian Catholic priest. The traveler has known the VONS family all his life. Darya is married but does not live with her husband, who is in Poland. Apparently, Darya has not been able to secure permission from the Soviet authorities to join her husband. Darya's mother lives in Philadelphia. The traveler visited her on 18 February, ostensibly to pay his respects while passing through town, but actually to elicit information on the current status of the VONS family. Darya's two brothers, who were friends of the traveler, disappeared at the end of World War II while

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in service with the UPA (Ukrainian National Underground Army). Darya is described by the traveler as having a good and serious character. She also has two sisters, Iryna and Olena, both living in Lvov. The traveler does not plan to visit either. Darya's address in Lvov is Leontovsky 8, Apartment 4A.

D. Euhenia VONS is the sister-in-law of Darya VONS and is the wife of one of the VONS sons, Ilow, mentioned above. She has a sixteen-year old son. Her address will be obtained from Darya VONS by the traveler. She works as a waitress. In one of her letters to her husband's mother in Philadelphia (sent via Iryna VONS), Euhenia mentioned that her son is being brought up the way his father would have wished.

E. Ilko ROHOWSKY is the traveler's brother, now living in a small Polish village in Voyevodstvo Wroclaw. The traveler will visit him for personal and cover purposes only. There will be no operational aspect to this contact.

Training and Briefing

The traveler will receive training in surveillance and briefing on his operational mission and PI requirements, but the latter will be collected as a result of passive observation only. In the surveillance training recognition of surveillance will be stressed. It will be emphasized to the traveler that any recognizable attempt to lose surveillance will put his mission and perhaps even himself in jeopardy and that while accomplishment of his mission is dependent upon not being surveiled, his attempt to maintain this condition must be perfectly natural. He will be taught that if surveillance is constant and unavoidable, he must not activate his operational assignment.

The traveler will receive training in assessment and elicitation techniques in connection with those parts of his mission dealing with personal contacts. He will be briefed on missile indicator requirements for collection of intelligence which he might gather passively either by observation or in conversation. For this purpose

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he will be trained on observation techniques and reporting of what he sees and hears. He will receive a defensive briefing concerning provocation and what to do if detained. The traveler will be instructed on the technique of mailing a letter in the USSR.

The traveler will be given authoritative reading material on Ukrainian art of the fourteenth to eighteenth centuries, to be conversant with at least the main trends and important works and events of the period (for the SVETSIKSA contact).

The traveler will be available one week prior to departure for training and briefing and for several days upon return for debriefing. A complete record of training and briefing instructions of the traveler will be maintained.

Itinerary

The traveler has already contacted Maupin Tours for travel arrangements. The itinerary which he has requested is Poland, Moscow, Kiev, Tarnopol, and Lvov. He will leave New York by air on or about 20 May. After about two days with his brother in the village of Slaska, near Wroclaw, he will travel to Moscow by air from Warsaw, beginning a stay of approximately ten days in the USSR. After a day or two in Moscow, the traveler will spend a total of four days in Kiev and vicinity, taking a side trip to Kaniv, Taras Shevchenko's place of burial and the site of the Shevchenko centennial celebration, which will consume several days. During this period, the traveler will be a simple tourist, in no way exciting suspicion by reason of word or act.

From Kiev the traveler will go to Tarnopol by train. Tarnopol is the place of his birth and the area he knows best. His reason for stopping in Tarnopol, aside from the fact that he grew up there, will be to visit his father's grave. The traveler will spend only a day or two in Tarnopol, inconspicuously avoiding people who might remember him from before or during the war, for we do not want the traveler's background brought to the Soviets' attention unnecessarily.

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The traveler will proceed from Ternopol to Lvov by train. It is at this point, well over half-way through his trip, that the traveler will undertake his operational mission. It is expected that because of his Ukrainian birth and United States citizenship, he will undergo at least a routine surveillance at some time in the course of his trip to establish the nature and variety of his movements. It is believed the traveler's innocent, noncompromising behavior up to this point will yield him at least some freedom during the last few days of his visit in Lvov. Up to this point the traveler will have put to the test the surveillance detection training which he will have received in order to establish to the best of his ability whether he can undertake his operational mission.

The traveler will spend the first day of his stay in Lvov reacquainting himself with the city. He will reconnoiter the city keeping in mind the various locations of the persons he is to contact. He will examine the various routes of access, always aware of the possibility of surveillance. He will be careful at all times to maintain the appearance of a tourist, simply seeing what there is to be seen.

The second day the traveler will visit the Museum of Ukrainian Art at 42 Drahomanova. Dressed unobtrusively in order not to stand out among the local populace, speaking native Ukrainian, and not volunteering that he is an American, the traveler will enter the museum early and spend several hours examining the exhibits, particularly those of the period on which SVENTSITSKA is expert and about which the traveler will have been briefed during the training phase. The traveler will then ask the attendant for advice from someone on the museum's staff concerning the Sahaydachny or Khmelnytsky period (seventeenth century), which we know to be SVENTSITSKA's specialty. With a little luck, he will be referred to SVENTSITSKA. Because he is not acquainted with her, the traveler will introduce himself using true name. Questions from the traveler based upon apparent knowledge and interest in SVENTSITSKA's specialty will help to establish rapport. The traveler will lead the conversation to a discussion of SVENTSITSKA's father, who was an outstanding scholar and expert on Ukrainian art. At an opportune moment the traveler will reveal to SVENTSITSKA that he is from the United States and is a citizen. This will probably come as a considerable surprise. The traveler will carefully note SVENTSITSKA's reaction and willingness to continue the conversation. If necessary, to prove that he is American, he will show her his

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passport if he has it in his possession. If her reaction is not adverse, the traveler will lead the conversation in the direction of the emigration in the United States and elsewhere. The conversation will be directed in such a way as to involve SVENTSITSKA more deeply into an expression of her interest in the activities of the emigration and her ideas and attitudes concerning the present situation in the Ukraine. If SVENTSITSKA accepts the bait, the traveler will give indications that she is well known in certain circles of the emigration as a result of her patriotic attitude. The traveler will go this far only if he notes approval of what he is saying in SVENTSITSKA's reactions. Further conversation, if all goes well, will be directed around personalities in the emigration.

The purpose of the above conversation is to enable the traveler to decide whether or not to implement further the operational plan involving SVENTSITSKA. He will do so unless there is an indication from SVENTSITSKA that she is under KGB continuous or close scrutiny or is unable to respond for some other reason. An evaluation of SVENTSITSKA by the traveler will also be of considerable use in future operational contact with her if she agrees to recruitment.

Upon taking leave from her the traveler will be profuse in his thanks to SVENTSITSKA for her help and expert information. As a souvenir and token of thanks, the traveler will present SVENTSITSKA with a fountain pen which he carries with him for his own use. The pen, a Parker 51 or of equivalent value, will contain a concealed letter from AECASSOWARY/2 in which recontact is established and a modified recruitment pitch is made (See Attachment A). The traveler will not himself be aware of the nature of the concealed item nor of its message. After presenting SVENTSITSKA with the fountain pen, the traveler will take leave of her.

If the traveler's attempt to contact SVENTSITSKA in the manner described above misfires, he will attempt to locate her himself. He will establish the location of the offices and approach SVENTSITSKA for information on some particular aspect of Ukrainian art within her special competence. He will then continue the conversation as described above. In either eventuality it will be up to the traveler to draw SVENTSITSKA into private conversation. This should not be difficult in a museum atmosphere.

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Unfortunately, there is no way to establish definitely that SVENSTINSKA will be on the job on the day the traveler approaches the museum. The chances are good that she will be there, since it will not yet be vacation time. There is of course no way of anticipating temporary illness or absence from the city. In either case the traveler will have to use his own ingenuity in making the contact. He will have her home address and telephone number for use either in this case or if he is saddled with an Intourist guide whom he is unable to shake and cannot get free until evening. If he should contact SVENSTINSKA at home, he will bring her greetings from friends in the United States and develop the conversation again as above. If SVENSTINSKA is temporarily out of town on the first contact attempt, the traveler will still have two or three more days during which he can contact her if she returns in time.

On the evening of the second or third day, depending upon conditions, particularly surveillance, the traveler will go to Rayduzhna 5 in Kozalnyky to try to locate Volodymyr HINDA. After locating him and introducing himself in true name in private, he will reveal himself as an American tourist who knows Natalya LEVYTSKA (who recently immigrated to the United States) and brings greetings and a gift from her. He will converse with HINDA on casual subjects, trying to find out something more about his place of work and HINDA's attitudes. As the traveler is a skilled machinist and mechanic, it should be possible for him to steer the conversation in the former direction. The traveler will be briefed on LEVYTSKA and her present situation to prove that he knows her. The purpose of this contact will be to establish HINDA as a candidate for an operational follow-up.

On the second or third day, probably in the evening, again depending upon the circumstances, the traveler will attempt to locate Darya VONS at her home address. If she is not there, he will inquire about her place of employment and seek her out there if that is feasible. Because Darya is an old acquaintance, a visit would be proper. The traveler will talk about old times, about the family and friends, and Darya's mother in Pittsburgh, whom he has recently seen. He will ask Darya for the address of her sister-in-law, Euhenia VONS, wife of his old friend. He will seek out Euhenia and cover the same subjects as with Darya. Depending upon their financial condition, the traveler might offer them a little financial help. He will also leave small gifts with them. How far he will go in establishing contact will depend upon the VONSES' responsiveness and apparent susceptibility. He will not, however, make a recruitment pitch and will in no way compromise himself in the company of the VONSES.

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Within a day prior to his departure from Lvov, the traveler will take from its sewn-in concealment place in his wallet a letter addressed to SVENTSITSKA and mail it inconspicuously in accordance with his training and briefing. He will not know the contents of the letter (See Attachment B). He will thereafter depart from Lvov by air for Western Europe and the United States.

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The following changes in the operational plan have been made:

1. The traveler will be forced by current Soviet travel regulations to accept the deluxe tour arrangement. This situation might or might not provide him with the problem of an Intourist guide. It is felt that the odds distinctly favor his being able to accomplish his operational mission with little or no increase in difficulty. However, we shall not be able to anticipate the sequence of his operational tasks with the same precision as under the pension arrangement.

2. The traveler probably will not carry in the trigger letter ready to mail, but instead memorize the text and write the letter himself immediately before mailing it. The potential danger of a thorough body search will thereby be lessened.

3. In presenting the gift pen to Vira SVENSKA, the traveler will call her attention to a striking crest, inlaid into the pen cap. He will indicate that this crest (probably a sunflower device) has been in his family for some time and is regarded as a symbol of good fortune. He will say in giving her the pen that he hopes it will bring her good fortune and serve her well. He will add that he might write her more about the crest in the future and how to care for it. She should follow his instructions. (The recruitment letter on film will be concealed within the double wall of the pen cap under the crest. It will defy exposure without literally shattering the cap in the area of the crest, as indicated in the trigger letter.)